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range of *Agelaius phœniceus richmondi* is extended northward to include "the coast district and lower Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas," which therefore brings it within the limits of the Check-List. All the North American forms of *Sturnella* are made subspecies of *magna*, except *neglecta*, which Mr. Ridgway continues to look upon as a full species.

Mr. Ridgway admits eight forms of the *Geothlypis trichas* group, and discusses at some length their distribution and relationships, as also the seven forms recognized from the Bahamas. We regret the lack of space to transcribe his very interesting presentation of the case. *G. trichas scirpicola* Grinnell is considered as not separable from *G. t. arizela* Oberholser.

The present volume exceeds the first in size by about one hundred pages, and includes 55 more species and subspecies, Part II containing 433—316 species and 117 subspecies. The 22 plates illustrate the structural details of 77 genera.

In execution Part II conforms in all its details with Part I, so that the explanation of methods of treatment, and the high commendation already given for Part I, apply equally to Part II, which is marked throughout by the extreme care and thoroughness so well known to characterize Mr. Ridgway's technical work. Finally, we heartily congratulate the author and all ornithologists that we have assurance that Part III is so well advanced that we may confidently expect its publication before the end of the present year, it being already in press.—J. A. A.

**Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States.'**<sup>1</sup>—As stated in the publisher's announcement, "This book is intended to do for the western part of the United States what Mr. Frank M. Chapman's 'Handbook' has done for the East. It is written on similar lines, and gives descriptions and biographical sketches of all our western birds in a thoroughly scientific yet not unduly technical form, including all the United States species not treated by Chapman, besides those which are common to both sections of the country." This is a perfectly fair statement of the scope and character of the work, which in method of execution and accuracy of detail merits the highest commendation. The author has had rare opportunities for personal observation of the birds in life of which she writes, having spent several seasons in the field in Texas, in Arizona, and in California, and has enjoyed an especially favorable environment for the production of a thoroughly accurate and well-

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<sup>1</sup> Handbook of Birds | of the | Western United States | including | the Great Plains, Great Basin, Pacific Slope, | and Lower Rio Grande Valley | By Florence Merriam Bailey | With thirty-three full-page plates by Louis | Agassiz Fuertes, and over six hundred cuts in the text | [Vignette] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1902 — 12mo, pp. i—xc + 1—512. Price, \$3.50, postage extra.

balanced manual of the birds of the western United States. Indeed, as stated in her 'prefatory note,' she has had the advice and the help of experts, and the resources of the National Museum and Biological Survey collections as a basis for the technical side of her work.

In an 'introduction' of nearly 80 pages are stated, first, the general sources of information upon which she has relied in the general treatment of the subject. Then follows a section (pp. xxvi–xxxiii) on collecting and preparing birds, nests, and eggs by her husband, Mr. Vernon Bailey, who has also contributed more or less of the biographical matter throughout the book. There are directions for note-taking and keeping journals, and several pages on 'life zones,' with a map, by her brother Dr. C. Hart Merriam, of the United States west of about the 100th meridian and northern Mexico, shaded to indicate the various life areas. 'Migration' and 'economic ornithology' are briefly treated, and there are half a dozen pages on 'bird protection' by Dr. T. S. Palmer. Then follow a number of briefly annotated local lists, most of them here for the first time published, as: 'List of the Birds of the vicinity of Portland, Oregon,' by A. W. Anthony; 'List of Water Birds of San Francisco Bay,' by William H. Kobbé; 'List of Birds of Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains, exclusive of Water Birds,' by Walter K. Fisher; 'List of Birds to be looked for in the vicinity of Pasadena,' by Joseph Grinnell; 'List of Birds of Cheyenne and vicinity,' by Frank Bond. A 'List of the Birds of Fort Sherman, Idaho,' is compiled from the late Dr. J. C. Merrill's notes in Vols. XIV and XV of 'The Auk,' and a list for Pinal, Pima, and Gila Counties, Arizona; is compiled from W. E. D. Scott's papers published in Vols. III–V of 'The Auk.' An important but very condensed list of 'Books of Reference' occupies pp. lxxxiii–lxxxviii.

The main body of the work (pp. 1–477 treats of the species and subspecies in systematic sequence, in the order of the A. O. U. Check-List, and following its nomenclature. An appendix gives a 'Field Color Key' to the genera of the more common passerine birds, and is followed by a very full index. The systematic portion of the book is furnished with very freely illustrated keys to the higher groups, as well as the usual keys to the genera and species. Mr. Fuertes's 36 full-page plates illustrate in full-length figures leading types of the bird life of the region, and a large number of additional heads, by the same author, and here first published, contribute further to the attractiveness, as well as usefulness of the work. Many new outlines of structural features are added from drawings by Miss Franceska Weiser, while a large number of additional illustrations are from the publications of the Biological Survey, 'The Auk,' 'Osprey,' and the author's previous works. Besides all these, a large number of photographic illustrations from bird skins are introduced, often with excellent effect, but, owing largely to the small scale of the reproduction, not infrequently they fail to be either very useful or attractive embellishments.

Without going further into details, it may suffice to say that the author is to be congratulated on having produced a very much needed Handbook

in a thoroughly creditable manner, and has thereby merited the thanks of thousands of bird students to whom her book will truly prove a 'boon.'—  
J. A. A.

Brewster's 'Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California.'<sup>1</sup>—The Cape Region of Lower California, as here defined, comprises the terminal portion of the peninsula "southward from the northern base of the mountains between La Paz on the Gulf shore and the town of Todos Santos on the Pacific Coast," and is a sharply defined faunal and floral area, characterized by peculiar climatic conditions which have left their impress upon the animal and plant life. It is a mountainous country, separated from the more northern part of the peninsula by a low desert tract which forms a formidable barrier to the extension of plant and animal life, either from the north southward or from the south northward. It has a rather humid climate, and is situated on the edge of the tropics, the Tropic of Cancer crossing the center of the region. Its area embraces about two degrees of latitude and one of longitude.

The basis of this excellent monograph consists of a collection of "upwards of 4,400 birds" made for the author by Mr. M. Abbott Frazar in 1887. An 'Introduction' of twelve pages is devoted largely to an itinerary of the trip, which describes in detail the localities where Mr. Frazar collected, and also defines the region and indicates its peculiar physical characteristics. The 'Systematic Notice of the Birds' occupies pages 13-219, and is followed by a bibliography, and a good index. Mr. Brewster regrets that there is so little to record respecting the life histories of the species, Mr. Frazar's field notes proving scanty, and other ornithologists who have visited the region seem to have been more intent on gathering and preparing specimens than on recording field observations. "The main portion of my paper," says the author, "treats only of birds which are definitely known to have occurred in the Cape Region, but in dealing with the distribution of such of these as are not confined to this area, I have consulted—and frequently cited, also—all the more important records that I could find relating to the central and upper parts of the Peninsula as well as to southern California, and in addition I have outlined, briefly, the general range of each species or subspecies along the Pacific coast, hoping thereby to show more clearly the precise relations in which the different forms stand geographically to the Cape fauna."

Acknowledgment is made to his assistant, Mr. Walter Deane, for the preparation of the bibliography, which includes some seventy titles, and for preparing the synonymy. He has performed the task, says Mr. Brewster, "with infinite care and faithfulness, verifying every citation by

<sup>1</sup> *Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California.* By William Brewster. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Vol. XLI, No. 1. pp. 1-241, with Map. September, 1902.